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Controller Chiang Provides Free Tax Preparation Assistance for California Taxpayers

SACRAMENTO – State Controller John Chiang today announced staff from his Los Angeles and Sacramento offices will provide free tax preparation assistance to low- and moderate-income taxpayers starting next week through April 17, 2007.

“Tax forms can be intimidating, and not everyone can afford to hire a professional or buy software to help them prepare their taxes,” Chiang said. “These free tax preparations not only help low-income, elderly, disabled and non-English speakers complete their returns, they also help identify refunds and tax credits the taxpayer might otherwise not know about.”

Last year, nearly 460,000 financially-struggling families missed out on \$850 million in tax credits under the federal Earned Income Tax Credit program. Many of those taxpayers didn’t know about the credit, didn’t think they earned enough to pay taxes or wrongly feared they could lose other benefits if they received a tax credit. The EITC refunds up to \$4,536 dollars for working families that earn less than \$38,348 a year. The Child and Dependent Care Expenses credit provides up to \$1,050 for taxpayers who pay dependent care expenses and have an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less.

More than 1,800 free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) events are scheduled throughout the state this year to provide assistance to Californians needing help filling out their income tax forms.

In Sacramento, free tax assistance will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Monday, February 26, at 300 Capitol Mall, Room 275. To schedule an appointment and receive more information about documents that will be needed to prepare your taxes, call the Controller’s Sacramento office at (916) 445-2636.

Also starting Monday, Los Angeles taxpayers can receive free help from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Controller’s Office at 660 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2050. Please call (213) 833-6010 to schedule an appointment and receive more information.

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